

further amended to capitalize several trademarks in accordance with MPEP §608.01 (v).

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendments to the specification.

FIG. 4E of the drawings is amended to correctly indicate the arrowhead on the "NO" branch from a decision box labeled "RTS=0 ?". Support for the amendment to the drawing is found throughout the specification including, for example, page 42, lines 30-33. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the amendment to the drawing. The drawing amendment was not submitted earlier because the error was discovered recently during the proofing of formal drawings. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment to FIG. 4E. In anticipation of the Examiner's approval of the drawing amendment, formal drawings containing the amendment are being concurrently submitted to the Official Draftsperson.

Finally, in an Information Disclosure Statement filed April 4, 1997, Applicants cited 53 references that were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 7, 1997 as shown by the date stamped on a return receipt postcard attached hereto as Exhibit A. As the very first Office Action was sent on April 16, 1997 (as shown by the date on PTOL-326 attached hereto as Exhibit B), the 53 references were submitted "[b]efore the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits..." as stated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge receipt and consideration of the 53 references by initialing copies of forms 1449 (listing the 53 references) that are attached hereto. If the Examiner needs any of the 53 references, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned so that the missing references can be sent directly to the Examiner.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at 408 453-9200, ext. 1227.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Issue Fee, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on February 25, 1998.

S. Omkar
Attorney for Applicants

Feb 25, 1998
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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